

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-38. (cancelled)

39-42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

44-46. (cancelled)

47-48. (cancelled)

49. (cancelled)

50. (cancelled)

51. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

52. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 51, wherein the nucleic acid is cDNA or RNA.

53. (previously presented) A composition comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 51 and a carrier.

54. (cancelled)

55. (previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 51.

56. (currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the vector ~~isolated nucleic acid~~ of claim 54-55.

57. (previously presented) A method of producing a mammalian protein or polypeptide having the ability to bind the cytoplasmic region of CD40 receptor, which comprises: a) growing the host cell of claim 56 under suitable conditions such that the nucleic acid is transcribed and translated into protein and b) purifying said protein.

58. (cancelled)

59-61. (cancelled)